1	2
Rajasthan	5.94
Sikkim	0.00
Tripura	0.00
Tamil Nadu	10.24
Uttar Pradesh	9.52
West Bengal	8.67
Location in more than one State	0.24
TOTAL:	100.00

NOTE: Information on units set up in the non-SSI sector is based on Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda which have reported implementation and industrial licences issued.

Import scenario

†3116. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are importing those goods which are abundantly produced in the country;

(b) if so, the details of items so imported; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to export the agricultural goods in view of increased production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Import restrictions on items including agricultural commodities are being removed as a part of economic liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of our international obligations. At present, all the items on which import restrictions were maintained on account of balance of payment reasons are freely importable. The removal of restrictions has not altered the overall rate of growth of imports of the country. The growth rate of imports

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

was 15.3 per cent in 1993-94, 23.1 per cent in 1994-95, 36.4 per cent in 1995-96, 13.2 per cent in 1996-97, 11 per cent in 1997-98, 15.6 per cent in 1998-99. The process of removal of Quantitative Restrictions on most agricultural items began on 1.4.2000. The import growth rate during the year 2000-2001 was only 7.27 per cent in rupee terms and 0.27 per cent in US dollar terms. The growth rate of imports during the first nine months of financial year 2001-2002 was only 0.31 per cent in Dollar terms and 4.55 per cent in Rs. terms, compared to the same period for the previous year. The overall picture that emerges is thus one of normal trading activity in response to demand and supply factors.

(c) In order to boost agricultural exports, quantitative and packaging restrictions on export of wheat and its products, butter, pulses, grain and flour of barley, maize, bajra, ragi and jowar have been removed. Export restrictions like registraiton and packaging requirements on butter, wheat and wheat products, coarse grains, groundnut oil and cashew to Russia have also been removed. Restrictions on export of all cultivated (other than wild) varieties of seed, except jute and onion removed. To promote export of agro and agro based products, 20 agri export zones have been notified. In order to promote diversification of agriculture, transport subsidy will be available for export of fruits, vegetables, floriculture, poultry and dairy products, the details of which are being worked out. 3 per cent special DEPB rate for primary and processed foods exported in retail packaging of 1 kg. or less has also been announced.

Investment climate of States

3117. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the joint-study conducted by World Bank and CII which has identified poor investment climate in States like Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, while classifying Maharashtra and Gujarat as best investment climate States; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan to identify the reasons for this poor investment climate, and taking time-bound steps